

# NOT EVEN PAST



## Election Fraud! Read All About It!

Tweet

by *Charters Wynn*

The week before our presidential elections is a good time to remember one of the greatest political bombshells in history.

On October 25, 1924, four days before the British general election, the conservative mass-circulation newspaper, the *Daily Mail*, published a letter that caused a political sensation. The front-page headline read: "Civil War Plot by Socialists' Masters: Moscow's Orders to Our Reds: Great Plot Disclosed Yesterday." These alleged orders from the Soviet Union took the form of a 1200-word "very secret" letter to the leadership of the British Communist Party, from Grigori Zinoviev, the head of the Communist International (Comintern), whose goal was to spread communism around the world.

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SATURDAY, The Daily Mail OCTOBER 19, 1924.

CIVIL WAR PLOT BY SOCIALISTS' MASTERS.

MOSCOW ORDERSTO OUR REDS.

GREAT PLOT DISCLOSED YESTERDAY.

"PARALYSE THE ARMY AND NAVY."

MR. MACDONALD WOULD LEND RUSSIA OUR MONEY!

DOCUMENT ISSUED BY FOREIGN OFFICE

AFTER "DAILY MAIL" HAD SPREAD THE NEWS.

A "very event" letter of instruction from Moscow, which we publish below, discloses a great Bolshevik plot to paralyze the British Army and Navy and to plunge the country into civil war.

The letter is addressed by the Bolsheviks of Moscow to the Soviet Government's servants in Great Britain, the Communist Party, who in turn are the masters of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Government, which has signed a treaty with Moscow whereby the Soviet is to be guaranteed a "loan" of millions of British money.

The letter is signed by Zinoviev, the Dictator of Petrograd, President of the Third (Comintern) International, and is addressed to the International, the British representative on the executive of this International, who is Lord Curzon, and is dated October 18 to face part in the general election campaign.

Our information is that official copies of the letter, which is dated September 18, were delivered to the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, and the Home Secretary, Mr. Arthur Henderson, immediately after it was received some weeks ago. On Wednesday afternoon copies were officially circulated by the Executive Committee to high officers of the Army and Navy.

A copy of the document was in the possession of *The Daily Mail*, and we laid it out daily to make it public. We developed printed copies to other London morning newspapers yesterday afternoon. Later on the Foreign Office decided to issue it, together with a translation yesterday, which the British Government has sent to Mr. Bakewell, the Bolshevik Charge d'Affaires in London.

The actual passages of Moscow's plot letter are:

Armed warfare must be preceded by a struggle against the indications in communism, which are everywhere among the majority of British workers, against the ideas of evolution and peaceful extermination of the bourgeoisie.

Only then will it be possible to count on complete success of an armed insurrection.

From your last report it is evident that agitation-propaganda work in the Army is weak and the Navy a very little better. . . . It would be desirable to have propaganda-activated cells in all the units of the troops, among factories working on munitions and at military store depots.

The military services of the British Communist Party further suffers from a lack of spirit, the former directors of the British Red Army . . . . It is time your thought of forming such a group.

"The British protest is signed, in the absence of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. MacDonald, by Mr. J. B. Gregory, Permanent Assistant Secretary of the Foreign Office. It requires a reply "without delay". The text of this protest is in another column.

**THE BRITISH RED ARMY.**

OUR COMMUNISTS TOLD TO FIND GENERAL

pages of disclosure of the foreign policy of MacDonald.

**ARMED INSURRECTION.**

The 1924 (Comintern) International will willingly place at your disposal the whole material in the possession regarding the activities of British imperialism in the Middle and Far East. In the meanwhile, however, certain secret service in the struggle for the establishment of the Soviet Union of a semi-autonomous of agriculture and industry in the region of the Caucasus. A statement of relations between the B.S.R.R. and England. A statement of relations between the two countries will be sent in the re-establishing of the International and British imperialism and less than a successful plot to lay out of the British Empire of England, as the establishment of close contact between the British and Russian proletariats. His exchange of denunciations and workers, etc., will make it possible for us to capture and develop the propaganda or ideas of Leninism in England and the Colonies.

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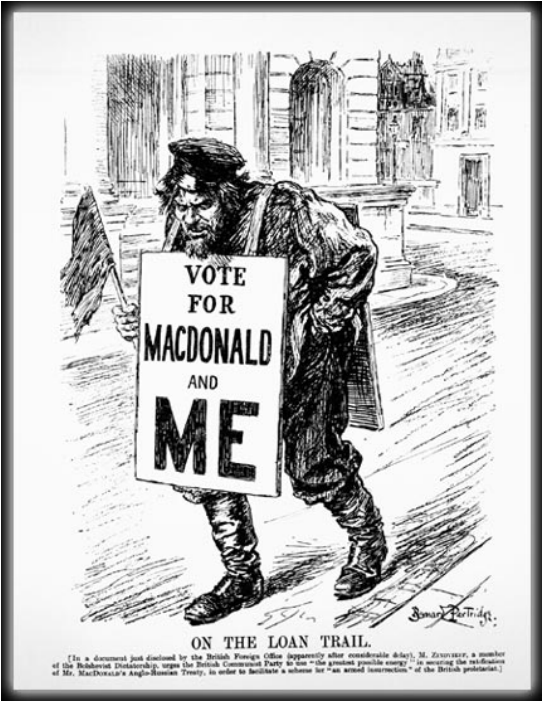
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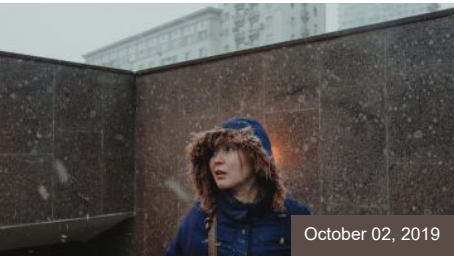
**THE BRITISH RED ARMY.**

OUR COMMUNISTS TOLD TO FIND GENERAL



*Punch* cartoon suggesting that a vote for Labour would bring the Communist revolutionary poor to power

The Soviet government immediately denounced the letter as a forgery, but the damage was done. Since then, controversy has raged over whether the “Red Letter” was genuine or not. It is still impossible to say with certainty who wrote it since the original letter has disappeared. Some historians argued in the 1990s that the letter was genuine, but the preponderance of evidence from British and Soviet documents declassified over the last two decades indicates the letter was forged. That evidence suggests that anti-communist Russian émigrés in Latvia sent the letter to conservative members of the British secret service. They then forwarded it to the Foreign Office and Scotland Yard with the false assurance that “the authenticity is undoubted,” and they leaked it to the press.



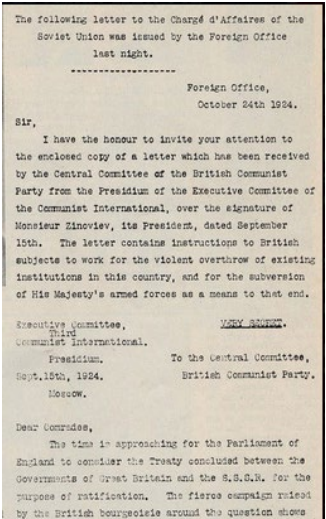
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Publication of the letter in the last days of what became known as the Red Scare campaign contributed to the sweeping defeat of MacDonald and the Labour Party. Conservatives came back into power and the country's policy toward the Soviet Union changed dramatically. The Anglo-Soviet treaty was not ratified and in 1927 Great Britain broke off diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia. The outcome of a major election in a powerful country was, in this way, influenced by outright trickery.

### Documents:

### Photograph of the copy of the letter

## Transcript of the copy of the letter

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Charters Wynn, "Order No. 227: Stalinist Methods and Victory on the Eastern Front"

*Posted October 31, 2012*

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